REMARKS

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to take up subsequently the prosecution of the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments above be entered and submit that these amendments will put the claims in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Antecedent basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specifications.

SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments set forth hereinabove be entered before substantive examination of the above-referenced application and request consideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or by facsimile.

Respectfully submitted,

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Preliminary Amendment HOU03:791968.1